

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20 and cancel claims 8, 16, 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A toggle switch apparatus, comprising:

a toggle mechanism associated with a plurality of basic switches maintained within a switching area within a tubular housing comprising a sealed metal tube;

a header which is sealed into said tubular housing and a glass-to-metal seal which seals said header into said tubular housing;

an actuator associated with at least one spring which actuates said plurality of basic switches, wherein said actuator and said at least one spring are located within said tubular housing; and

a lead wire termination assembly configured within said tubular housing, wherein said lead wire termination assembly comprises a plurality of lead wires attached to a plurality of pin contacts that exit through a cover of said tubular housing, thereby permitting said toggle switch apparatus to be actuated manually in a maintained position during high gravity conditions while providing a hermetic seal via said tubular housing for said switching area and said plurality of basic switches to prevent contamination of said switching area and potential explosions thereof.

2. (Previously Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least six basic switches ~~further comprising a header which is sealed into said tubular housing.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ ~~3~~ ~~further comprising a glass-to-metal seal which seals said header into said tubular housing~~ wherein said plurality of basic switches are aligned within said tubular housing in a row.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cover comprises a metal cover.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least one basic switch.

7. (Currently Amended) A toggle switch ~~The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:~~

a toggle mechanism associated with a plurality of basic switches maintained within a switching area within a tubular housing comprising a sealed metal tube, wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least six basic switches aligned within said tubular housing in a row;

an actuator associated with at least one spring which actuates said plurality of basic switches, wherein said actuator and said at least one spring are located within said tubular housing; and

a lead wire termination assembly configured within said tubular housing, wherein said lead wire termination assembly comprises a plurality of lead wires

attached to a plurality of pin contacts that exit through a cover of said tubular housing, thereby permitting said toggle switch apparatus to be actuated manually in a maintained position during high gravity conditions while providing a hermetic seal via said tubular housing for said switching area and said plurality of basic switches to prevent contamination of said switching area and potential explosions thereof.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A toggle switch method, comprising the steps of:

associating a toggle mechanism with a plurality of basic switches maintained within a switching area of a tubular housing comprising metal;

sealing a header into said tubular housing utilizing a glass-to-metal seal;

associating an actuator with at least one spring for actuating said plurality of basic switches, wherein said actuator and said at least one spring are located within said tubular housing; and

providing a lead wire termination assembly within said tubular housing, wherein said lead wire termination assembly comprises a plurality of lead wires attached to a plurality of pin contacts that exit through a cover of said tubular housing, thereby permitting said toggle switch apparatus to be actuated manually in a maintained position during high gravity conditions while providing a hermetic seal via said tubular housing for said switching area and said plurality of basic switches to prevent contamination of said switching area and potential explosions thereof.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of configuring said tubular housing to comprise a sealed metal tube.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least six basic switches ~~further comprising the step of sealing a header into said tubular housing.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 ~~11~~ further comprising the step of aligning said at least six basic switches in a row within said tubular housing ~~sealing said header into said tubular housing utilizing a glass-to-metal seal.~~

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said cover comprises a metal cover.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least one basic switch.

15. (Currently Amended) A toggle switch ~~The method, comprising the steps of:~~
~~claim 9~~

associating a toggle mechanism with a plurality of basic switches maintained within a switching area of a tubular housing comprising metal, wherein said plurality of basic switches comprises at least six basic switches;

aligning said at least six basic switches in a row within said tubular housing;

associating an actuator with at least one spring for actuating said plurality of basic switches, wherein said actuator and said at least one spring are located within said tubular housing; and

providing a lead wire termination assembly within said tubular housing, wherein said lead wire termination assembly comprises a plurality of lead wires attached to a plurality of pin contacts that exit through a cover of said tubular housing, thereby permitting said toggle switch apparatus to be actuated manually in a maintained position during high gravity conditions while providing a hermetic seal via said tubular housing for said switching area and said plurality of basic switches to prevent contamination of said switching area and potential explosions thereof.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A toggle switch system, comprising:

an electronic system under a control of a toggle mechanism associated with a plurality of basic switches maintained within switching area within a tubular housing comprising metal;

an actuator associated with at least one spring which actuates said plurality of basic switches, wherein said actuator and said at least one spring are located within said tubular housing; and

a lead wire termination assembly configured within said tubular housing, wherein said lead wire termination assembly comprises a plurality of lead wires attached to a plurality of pin contacts that exit through a cover of said tubular housing;

a header which is sealed into said tubular housing and a glass-to-metal seal which seals said header into said tubular housing, and wherein said cover comprises

a metal cover, thereby permitting said toggle switch apparatus to be actuated manually in a maintained position during high gravity conditions while providing a hermetic seal via said tubular housing for said switching area and said plurality of basic switches to prevent contamination of said switching area and potential explosions thereof during said high gravity conditions.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 ± wherein said tubular housing comprises a sealed metal tube.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 ± wherein said electronic system comprises a high-performance aircraft.